Part 3: Analyze the Texts

Now you’ll apply what you’ve learned in this workshop as you analyze two texts—an editorial and a poster. Both texts are about the legal driving age. As you read each text, try to identify the claim, the support, and any persuasive techniques that are used.

Should the Driving Age Be Raised to 18?

Editorial by Alex Koroknay-Palicz
National Youth Rights Association

If your neighbor robs a bank, should you go to jail? No. If your classmate gets in an accident, should your driver’s license be taken away? Of course not. Neither situation is fair. Raising the driving age will punish all young drivers for the mistakes of a few of their peers.

In this country we live by the principle of innocent until proven guilty. Those who want to raise the driving age have labeled teens guilty before they’ve gotten in an accident or before they’ve even stepped into a car. They believe that just because of your birth date, you are dangerous and must be punished by having your ability to drive taken from you.

Those who favor raising the driving age say that statistics show teenagers are more likely to get into accidents than adults. What they don’t say is that statistics also show that men of all ages are 77 percent more likely to kill someone while driving than women. If people want to save lives by raising the driving age, then how about saving lives by allowing only women to drive?

Except raising the driving age won’t save lives. Studies show that it is inexperience, not age, that causes accidents. Raising the driving age will just create inexperienced, accident-prone drivers at 18 instead of 16.

Teens need the ability to drive just as much as anyone else—to get to school, to get to work, to get to sports or band practice, or just to go out with their friends. Cars are necessary for mobility in this country. Taking that away is a large disruption to the lives of teenagers—for no good reason.

Close Read

1. The title tells you which side of the issue the author falls on, but the claim of his argument is stated in the first paragraph. What is the author’s claim?

2. What reasons and evidence does the author provide as support for his claim?

3. The author presents an opposing viewpoint in the [boxed] lines. In your own words, restate his response to this opposition.
The creators of this public-service poster offer a different viewpoint on the same issue. What techniques are used to get you to see their side?

Support Bill 543 to raise the driving age and cut down on needless accidents.

How many more teens need to suffer before we admit that we are putting them behind the wheel too soon? And who’s to say you won’t be the next victim of an inexperienced teenage driver?

Close Read

1. Examine the text and photograph used in this ad. What emotional appeal is being used?
2. In what way does this ad use the technique of transfer?